

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

BERKSHIRE GAS COMPANY

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D.T.E. 02-81

**PETITION FOR LIMITED PARTICIPANT STATUS OF
BOSTON GAS COMPANY, COLONIAL GAS COMPANY
AND ESSEX GAS COMPANY EACH D/B/A
KEYSPAN ENERGY DELIVERY NEW ENGLAND**

Pursuant to 220 C.M.R. 1.03, Boston Gas Company, Colonial Gas Company and Essex Gas Company each d/b/a KeySpan Energy Delivery New England (“KeySpan”) hereby petition the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (“Department”) for leave to participate as limited participants in the above-captioned proceeding. In support of this request, KeySpan states the following:

1. The KeySpan companies are Massachusetts corporations located at One Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.
2. The KeySpan companies are gas companies, as defined in G.L. c. 164, § 1, and are regulated by the Department, pursuant to G.L. c. 164.
3. On December 23, 2002, the Department opened an investigation into the petition of Berkshire Gas Company (“Berkshire”) for approval of a gas purchase agreement with BP Energy.
4. The Department’s investigation in this proceeding is likely to raise issues dealing with gas supply contracts that are common to other gas companies in Massachusetts, including KeySpan.

5. KeySpan's limited participant status will not jeopardize the Department's investigation in any way.

6. Counsel for Berkshire has been contacted and has indicated that Berkshire does not object to KeySpan being granted limited participant status.

7. KeySpan's interests are unique and cannot be adequately represented by any other party.

8. Accordingly, KeySpan seeks to take part as a limited participant in this case, and where appropriate, to file comments, attend and participate in technical conferences, submit briefs, and to participate in this proceeding in any other manner deemed appropriate for limited participants by the Hearing Officer.

Wherefore, KeySpan respectfully requests that the Department grant this Petition for Limited Participant Status.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Crowe, Counsel
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and Essex Gas Company each d/b/a
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Dated: January 8, 2003